We are pleased to announce SAALT's 2015-2016 Young Leaders Institute participants. This year's cohort reflects 15 outstanding, diverse young leaders who have brainstormed creative and thoughtful project proposals to address this year's theme of Addressing and Confronting Anti-Black Racism.

Aanchal plans to use her presence on the University of California – Berkeley campus to mobilize the South Asian student community to promote meaningful engagement and solidarity with the Black student community and the larger Black community's efforts to combat racism. She plans to collaborate with student organizations to host a series of facilitated events featuring testimonials and discussions between the two communities about issues of identity, struggles, and mobilization for on-campus and off-campus initiatives.

Amritha plans to organize a small series of facilitated community forums in Kalamazoo, including members of local social justice organizations, South Asian organizations, and Kalamazoo College and Western Michigan University. The sessions will explore the topic of reverse racism and how one's understanding about reverse racism impacts their overall understanding of racism. These sessions will also empower and train attendees to host similar group discussions in the broader community context.

Anushka plans to partner with the Ismaili community center in Atlanta to build and implement a series of speaker-facilitated workshops discussing racism against South Asians and Blacks and exploring ways to combat racism and create greater accountability for those that engage in racism.

Aretha plans on creating a three-day intensive, facilitated ally training for South Asian community members and other people of color in Seattle to empower them to be powerful allies for the Black Lives Matter movement.

Aysha plans to organize a silent march on Rutgers University's campus, with South Asian and Black students carrying signs across campus to raise awareness about existing racism and initiatives combatting racism. The march will end with an open mic night addressing the importance of modern day experiences of racism, solidarity, participating in social change, and advocating against anti-Black racism.

Cindy plans to organize events within the South Asian community on Hamline University's campus to raise awareness about the community's history and struggles and then use that as a platform to start building empathy with the Black community's struggles in this country and encouraging mobilization in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter campaign and other grassroots-level initiatives.

Enakshi plans to explore the roots of anti-Black racism within the South Asian community by starting a regular discussion group centered on short readings by South Asian and Black authors writing about oppression. After a few sessions, the initiative will evolve to include Black students to share their thoughts on the readings, their experiences, and their struggles. The regular discussion group participants from both communities will then host a joint open mic on the University of Texas – Austin campus to highlight some of the readings and feature original works by campus community members exploring issues surrounding internal biases and anti-Black racism.

Harjit plans to work within her local Sikh community in Utah and use local organizations and resources promoting diversity initiatives to create a collaborative effort between the Sikh and Black communities locally. As a Sunday school teacher, she wants to start by educating her older Sunday school students about racism against Sikhs and Blacks, drawing parallels and creating visual representations of them to

showcase at the temple and use as a platform to start promoting greater engagement and solidarity between the two communities.

Harris plans to create a social media or print campaign incorporating visual elements such as film, comic strips, and posters to illustrate moments when we are all complicit in perpetuating racism. The project will then incorporate the visuals as a starting point for discussion between South Asian and Black campus communities, creating a safe space on the University of Texas (Dallas) campus for joint forums and dialogue sessions.

Myra plans to use her role as the Diversity and Inclusion Agency Director for her student government at the University of Texas – Austin to host a teach-in addressing racism affecting different communities and exploring constructive means to build long-term solidarity, including bi-monthly meetings for student leaders from Black, South Asian, and other student organizations to sustain engagement and create greater accountability for any incidents on campus.

Neha plans to organize a series of panel discussions on the Indiana University campus about the root causes of anti-Black racism within the South Asian community, the impact of affirmative action on the South Asian and Black communities, the role of South Asians in the context of the Black Liberation Movement, and the future relationship between the two communities.

Pearl plans to organize discussion groups and readings in Washington, D.C. engaging both the South Asian and Black communities on the topic of racial profiling, exploring the ways both communities' experiences parallel each other and the ways in which they diverge. The project will build on empathy and culminate in a curated display at a South Asian community center.

Priya plans to create a program utilizing a social media campaign focused on raising awareness about racism, a series of discussions exploring shared struggles between the South Asian and Black communities, and a celebratory, jointly-hosted showcase by members of both communities for the University of Florida campus community.

Rahima is a New York-based journalist planning to reach young South Asians through a social media campaign to raise awareness about combatting racist language and anti-Black racism and follow up with an event exploring shared struggles and ways the South Asian community can step up to join existing initiatives to combat societal racism, especially in the form of police brutality.

Sanjana plans to use her semester abroad in London as a way to learn effective strategies used abroad to combat anti-Black racism and apply them to Northwestern University's campus community through a series of workshops featuring testimonials from South Asian and Black student communities. She hopes to create a safe space for testimonials and discussion on how the two communities can creatively and meaningfully collaborate to raise awareness about racism.

Talia plans to work with South Asian youth, hosting a series of guest speaker workshops exploring anti-Black racism and raising awareness about the importance of both communities working together on the many issues that impact both. The workshops may cover a number of topics, including the Black Liberation Movement, existing initiatives such as the Black Lives Matter campaign, policing of Black and immigrant New York city neighborhoods, gentrification, and more.

Vandana plans to host a “Story Slam” to create a safe space for Black students to share their experiences with racism through poetry or stories with other minority student organization members. The event will bring together students from the Black Students Association and various South Asian organizations to start developing a shared understanding, reflecting on their experiences, sharing grievances about on-campus incidents, and devising collaborative strategies to combat on-campus racism.